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Attorney Docket No. RCA 89,520
Office Action dated: 05/29/08

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Listing and Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) In a handheld audio playback device, a method for playing back an audio data file, the audio data file being encoded in accordance with a selected one of a plurality of encoding formats, the method comprising the steps of:

identifying a selected audio data file in response to a user input;

identifying a decoder file associated with the selected audio data file, the decoder file comprising a decoding program to control the operations a decoding function of a digital signal processor;

transferring the selected audio data file and the associated decoder file to the digital signal processor, wherein the selected audio data file and the associated decoder file are both stored in a single removable data storage device coupled to the handheld audio playback device;

using a security code associated with the handheld audio playback device to generate a decryption program;

decrypting the associated decoder file using ~~a first key~~ the decryption program;

~~using a second key and a unique identification associated with the single removable data storage device to generate a third key;~~

decrypting the selected audio data file using the ~~third key~~ decryption program;

decoding the decrypted audio data file in accordance with the decrypted decoder file in the digital signal processor; and

providing the decoded audio data file to an output device.

2. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of:

reading a configuration file that associated each one of a plurality of audio data files with a particular one of a plurality of decoder files, and the identifying the decoder file step comprises identifying the decoder file using the configuration file.

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3. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 2, wherein the single removable data storage device is a solid state data storage device.

4. (Currently Amended) A handheld audio playback apparatus for playing back an audio data file encoded in accordance with a selected one of a plurality of encoding formats, the apparatus comprising:

user input means for receiving user commands;

data input means for receiving digital data;

a digital signal processor;

a micro-controller, coupled to the user input means, the data input means, the output means and the digital signal processor, for identifying a user selected audio data file and a decoder file associated with the user selected audio data file, the decoder file comprising a decoding program for controlling ~~the operation a~~ decoding function of the digital signal processor, the micro-controller transferring the user selected audio data file and the associated decoder file from a single user removable data storage device to the digital signal processor in response to a user selection, the micro-controller further transferring a security code associated with the handheld audio playback apparatus to the digital signal processor, and wherein the digital signal processor uses the security code to generate a decryption program, decrypts the associated decoder file using ~~a first key~~ the decryption program, ~~uses a second key and a unique identification associated with the single user removable data storage device to generate a third key~~, decrypts the user selected audio data file using the third key decryption program, and decodes the decrypted audio data file in accordance with the decrypted associated decoder file.

5. (Previously Presented) The handheld audio playback apparatus according to claim 4, wherein the single user removable data storage device comprises a solid state data storage device coupled to the micro-controller.

6. (Currently Amended) A handheld audio playback system, comprising:

user input means for receiving user commands;

data input means for receiving digital data;

a removable data storage device coupled to the data input means;

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a digital signal processor; and

a micro-controller, coupled to the user input means, the data input means, and the digital signal processor, for identifying a selected audio data file and an associated decoder file stored on the removable data storage device in response to a user input; the micro-controller transferring the selected audio data file and the associated decoder file to the digital signal processor, the micro-controller further transferring a security code associated with the handheld audio playback system to the digital signal processor, wherein the digital signal processor uses the security code to generate a decryption program, decrypts the associated decoder file using ~~a first key~~ the decryption program, ~~uses a second key and a unique identification associated with the removable data storage device to generate a third key~~, decrypts the selected audio data file using the ~~third key~~ decryption program, and decodes the decrypted audio data file in accordance with the decrypted associated decoder file.

7. (Currently Amended) The handheld audio playback system according to claim 6, wherein the removable data storage device comprises a solid state data storage device.

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Currently Amended) The handheld audio playback system according to claim 6, wherein the removable data storage device includes a configuration file for identifying a plurality of stored audio data files and the decoder file associated with each one of the plurality of stored audio data files.

10. (Currently Amended) In a handheld audio playback device, a method for playing back an audio data file, the audio data file being encoded in accordance with a selected one of a plurality of encoding formats, the method comprising the steps of:

identifying a selected audio data file in response to a user input;